




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Banyo Level Crossing

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.49 pm): Our Miles Labor government's Big Build is delivering vital infrastructure to secure the future of our state and is providing a generation worth of good, secure jobs for Queenslanders. For my community in the Nudgee electorate, there are few infrastructure projects more important than addressing the issues of the Banyo level crossing. As locals in my community are only too keenly aware, traffic congestion and, most importantly, safety have been a problem at the Banyo level crossing for years—decades, in fact. As is the case with most level crossings, these problems cannot be solved without the cooperation of both the Brisbane City Council and the state government. Of course, while the state is responsible for the rail corridor, the trains and the train station, the roads in question leading in and out of the crossing are in fact Brisbane City Council roads. Despite years of attempts on my part to put politics aside for the benefit of my local community and to work with the local LNP councillor on a solution, he has unfortunately never come to the table and been willing to do the same.

These are just some of the examples of the advocacy and engagement that I have engaged in over the years for my local community: a letter to the local councillor, a letter to the Lord Mayor, a newsletter to my local community, emails to locals, emails to the councillor, extensive social media postings about the issue, information from doorknocking sessions, speeches made in the House here, and newsletters. These are just some of the things that I have done to try to have this discussion fruitfully for my community. Despite this being the first thing I raised with the local councillor when he was elected in 2016, we are still locked in this ridiculous political argument about the fact that council will take no responsibility. My community deserves better.

Of course, we went it alone at a state level. I acknowledge the former transport minister and the funding he gave to do a precinct study to improve safety at the crossing. That precinct study should have been joint. The Lord Mayor said no. The local councillor would not commit to it. We have finished that precinct study and now have a number of options that would also improve the safety for my community. Still the local councillor, who has been returned, will not cooperate. He will not talk about the issue. It is not their responsibility; it is ours.

The LNP have never turned up for my community—not at a local level and not when they had the chance, from 2012 to 2015, to actually advocate for and solve this issue. The people of the Nudgee electorate deserve better than the LNP. They deserve better than the current councillor. It is only a state Labor government that will fight to resolve the issue.

(Time expired)